

CLAIMS

1. A fastener comprising:

a male member and a female member that are interlockable to close said zipper and separable to open said zipper;

a slider for opening and closing said zipper when moved in opposite directions, said slider having no separating finger for separating said male and female members during opening; and

a membrane of a gauge thin enough to be captured between said male and female members when said zipper is closed, said membrane being connected to and extending between said male and female members.

2. The fastener as recited in claim 1, wherein said membrane extends from the top of one of said male and female members to the top of the other of said male and female members.

3. The fastener as recited in claim 1, wherein said membrane extends from the top of one of said male and female members to the bottom of the other of said male and female members.

4. A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end and a fastener as recited in claim 1 attached to said mouth.

5. A fastener comprising:

a male member and a female member that are interlockable to close said zipper and separable to open said zipper;

a slider for opening and closing said zipper when moved in opposite directions, said slider having no separating finger for separating said male and female members during opening; and

a membrane of a gauge thin enough to be captured between said male and female members when said zipper is closed, said membrane being

connected to only one of said male and female members.

6. A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end and a fastener as recited in claim 5 attached to said mouth.

5 7. A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a closed plastic zipper attached to said mouth, and a slider mounted to said zipper, wherein said zipper comprises first and second interlocked profiled structures having an interstice therebetween, and a pliable membrane connected to said first interlocked profiled structure, at least part of said membrane being located in and having a profile conformed to said interstice, and said slider does  
10 not have a separating finger for separating said first and second profiled structures.

8. The package as recited in claim 7, wherein said membrane is also connected to said second profiled structure.

15 9. The package as recited in claim 7, wherein said zipper further comprises first and second flanges respectively connected to said first and second profiled structures, and said receptacle comprises first and second walls respectively attached to said first and second flanges.

20 10. The package as recited in claim 7, wherein said first profiled structure has a male profile and said second profiled structure has a female profile shaped to receive said male profile.

25 11. The package as recited in claim 7, wherein said membrane comprises first and second edges, and said zipper comprises first and second stomped portions, wherein said first edge of said membrane is blended into said first stomped portion and said second edge of said membrane is blended into said second stomped portion.

12. A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a plastic zipper attached to said mouth, and a slider mounted to said zipper, wherein said zipper comprises a male profiled structure and a female profiled

structure, and a membrane connected to said male and female profiled structures, said male and female profiled structures being interlocked when said zipper closed, said slider having no separating finger for separating said male and female profiled structures, and a portion of said membrane having a pliability and a gauge that allow said membrane portion to fit between said male and female profiled structures when said zipper is closed.

13. The package as recited in claim 12, wherein said membrane is folded.

14. The package as recited in claim 12, wherein said membrane is connected to said first and second profiled structures at different elevations.

15. A slider/zipper assembly comprising a plastic zipper and a slider mounted to said zipper, wherein said zipper comprises first and second interlockable profiled structures that form an interstice when interlocked, and a membrane connected to at least one of said first and second interlockable profiled structures, a portion of said membrane having a pliability and a gauge that allow said membrane portion to fit in and conform its profile to said interstice when said first and second interlockable profiled structures are interlocked, and said slider has no separating finger for separating said first and second profiled structures when interlocked.

16. The slider/zipper assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein said membrane is folded.

17. The slider/zipper assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein said membrane is connected to said first and second interlockable profiled structures at different elevations.

18. The slider/zipper assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein said membrane has a free edge.